

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11, 12-22, 24, 34, 35-45 and 47-52 are pending. Claims 8-10 and 31-33 are cancelled. Claims 13-21 and 36-44 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1, 12, 22, 24, 35 and 45 are amended. Claims 47-52 are new. No new matter is added. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found in the specification at page 6, lines 18-21, page 10, lines 22-24 and page 11, lines 13-18. Claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 24, 34, 35 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,711,714 ("Wynblatt"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

I. Interview Summary

The applicant's representatives Hans Troesch and Arrienne Lezak thank Examiner Tran for the gracious courtesy of an interview after the final action in this matter. The applicant argued that the art relied upon did not teach or suggest an audio-based form that included zoning and structural information. Examiner Tran suggested that the claims be amended to recite more specifically the nature of zoning and structural information.

II. The 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 11

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as being anticipated by Wynblatt. Wynblatt is directed to linearizing framesets for audibly rendering structured document frames. Frames of the frameset are ranked in accordance with positional locations of each frame in the frameset such that each frame is uniquely ordered in the frameset. A linearized document is generated for the frameset for rendering by an audio browser. [See Wynblatt, Abstract]

By contrast, claim 1 recites a method for generating an audio-based form including one or more data fields. Zoning and structural information for the audio-based form are defined. Zoning information identifies a temporal location and temporal dimensions of the data fields included in the audio-based form. Structural information includes a name for each of the data fields and a description of a type of user data expected to be provided for each of the data fields. The zoning and structural information is encoded into one or more audio signals which are incorporated into the audio-based form.

Advantageously, because the zoning and structural information in an encoded form is included within the audio-based form itself, audio data entered by a user into the data fields can be extracted from the form without access to an external source of zoning and/or structural information.

Wynblatt does not disclose or suggest an audio-based form as recited in claim 1. Wynblatt is directed to something quite different, that is, an audio-browser. There is no discussion of an audio-based form including data fields. Furthermore, there is no disclosure in Wynblatt of encoding zoning and structural information into audio signals that are incorporated into an audio-based form.

Claim 1 clearly recites that zoning information includes a temporal location and a temporal dimension for each data field. That is, the location of the data field within the audio signals making up the audio-based form is part of the zoning information, as is the duration of the audio signal, i.e., the temporal dimension. Claim 1 further clearly recites that structural information includes a name for each data field and a description of the type of user data expected to be provided for the data field. By way of a purely illustrative example, a data field for a user's telephone number may be named "telephone number" and the description of the type of information expected may be "numeric". There is no disclosure in Wynblatt of including any such zoning or structural information in an audio-based form.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Wynblatt and is in condition for allowance. Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 12, 22, 24, 34, 35 and 45

Claims 12, 22, 24, 35 and 45 were rejected for reasons corresponding to those relied on in rejecting claim 1, and for each of the reasons set forth above in reference to claim 1, the applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn. Claim 34 depends from claim 24 and is therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 24.

III. New Claims

Claims 47-52 are new and depend from claims 1, 12, 22, 24, 35 and 45 respectively. Because the base claims are allowable, as discussed above, the new dependent claims are therefore also in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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